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TRAINING AND RESEARCH

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Silvia Cristina CORADO-CUEVAS (Guatemala)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 20 September 1996, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-first session the item entitled:

"Training and research:

"(a) United Nations Institute for Training and Research;

"(b) United Nations University"

and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Committee considered the item at its 7th, 18th, 28th, 35th and 38th meetings, on 17 and 28 October, 6 and 18 November and 2 December 1996. An account of the Committee's general discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (see A/C.2/51/SR.7, 18, 28, 35 and 38). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 3rd to 6th and 8th meetings, on 14 to 18 October (see A/C.2/51/SR.3-6 and 8).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

(a) Report of the Acting Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (A/51/14);[1]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (A/51/554);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Feasibility study on the relocation of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research to the Turin Centre" (A/51/642);

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit (A/51/642/Add.1);

United Nations University

(e) Report of the Council of the United Nations University (A/51/31);[2]

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations University (A/51/324).

4. At the 7th meeting on 17 October, the Rector of the United Nations University made an introductory statement on item 99 (b) (see A/C.2/51/SR.7).

5. At the 28th meeting, on 6 November, introductory statements on item 99 (a) were made by the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources Management, the Acting Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and the Vice-Chairman of the Joint Inspection Unit (see A/C.2/51/SR.28).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/51/L.3 and L.20

6. At the 18th meeting, on 28 October, the representative of Japan, also on behalf of Australia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Colombia, Guyana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Sierra Leone, Slovenia and Thailand, introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations University" (A/C.2/51/L.3), which read:

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[1] To be issued in final form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 14 (A/51/14/Rev.1).

[2] Ibid., Supplement No. 31.

"The General Assembly,

"Reaffirming its previous resolutions on the United Nations University,

"Having considered the report of the Council of the United Nations University and the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the University,

"Expressing its deep appreciation for the voluntary contributions made to date by Governments and other public and private entities in support of the University,

"Noting with appreciation the efforts made by the Rector of the United Nations University in intensifying his interaction with the United Nations Secretariat in the context of preparing for the third medium-term perspective,

"Recognizing that the University is making a growing number of contributions as a global reservoir of ideas for the international community in general and the United Nations system in particular, and expecting that those contributions will increase in the course of the third medium-term perspective,

"1. Welcomes the completion of the second medium-term perspective, 1990-1995, of the United Nations University and the ongoing work of formulating the third medium-term perspective for the period 1996-2001, being considered by the Council;

"2. Takes note with appreciation of the steps taken by the Council and the Rector of the United Nations University to promote the visibility of the University, particularly among Member States, the United Nations and its agencies, through such measures as organizing a series of public forums for the purpose of disseminating the results of its research, and requests them to further intensify such efforts;

"3. Requests the Council and the Rector of the United Nations University to continue intensifying their efforts to improve the University's interaction and communication with other bodies in the United Nations system;

"4. Also requests the Secretary-General to continue his consideration of innovative measures to improve the interaction and communication between the University and other bodies in the United Nations system and to ensure the integration of the work of the University into all relevant activities of the system, taking into account General Assembly resolution 49/124 of 19 December 1994, so that the United Nations system may draw more extensively upon the work of the University, and to submit a report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-third session;

"5. Endorses the suggestions of the Secretary-General to promote participation of the University in the Administrative Committee on Coordination and requests him to take further steps towards that end;

"6. Appeals to the international community to make voluntary contributions to the United Nations University, in particular to its Endowment Fund."

7. At the 38th meeting, on 2 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Kheireddine Ramoul (Algeria), introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/51/L.20), submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.3.

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.20 without a vote (see para. 15, draft resolution I).

9. In view of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.20, draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.3 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/51/L.27 and Rev.1

10. At the 35th meeting, on 18 November, the representative of Cameroon, also on behalf of Benin, the Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Nigeria, Pakistan and Zaire, introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations Institute for Training and Research" (A/C.2/51/L.27), which read:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 47/227 of 8 April 1993, 48/207 of 21 December 1993, 49/125 of 19 December 1994 and 50/121 of 20 December 1995,

"Having considered the report of the Secretary-General, the report of the Acting Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research on the activities of the Institute and the report of the Joint Inspection Unit,

"Noting with interest the steps taken to complete the restructuring process of the Institute and welcoming the recent progress made by the Institute in its various programmes and activities, including the better cooperation that has been established with other organizations of the United Nations system and with regional and national institutions,

"Expressing its appreciation to the Governments and private institutions that have made or pledged financial contributions to the Institute,

"Welcoming the opening of the Institute's Liaison Office in New York following the recommendation of the Board of Trustees of the Institute and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly,

"Reiterating that the funding of training programmes held at the specific request of Member States or departments and units of the Organization and other organs of the United Nations system and specialized agencies should be arranged by the requesting parties,

"Recognizing that training activities should be accorded a more visible and larger role in support of the management of international affairs and in the execution of the economic and social development programmes of the United Nations system,

"1. Reaffirms the relevance of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, particularly in view of the growing importance of training within the United Nations and the new training requirements of all Member States, and the pertinence of research activities related to training undertaken by the Institute within its mandate;

"2. Invites the Institute to develop further its cooperation with other United Nations institutes and relevant national, regional and international institutes;

"3. Requests that relevant measures be taken by the Board of Trustees of the Institute with respect to the regularization of the post of Executive Director of the Institute;

"4. Renews its appeal to Governments of States Members of the United Nations and to private institutions that have not yet contributed financially to the Institute to give it their generous financial support, and urges the States that had interrupted their contributions to consider resuming them now that the Institute has been restructured and revitalized;

"5. Decides, in view of the successful implementation of the transfer of the headquarters of the Institute from New York to Geneva, not to consider any further relocation, taking into account the doubts raised by the Board of Trustees at its session in September 1996 regarding the impact of such a move on the consolidation process and on the work of the Institute;

"6. Requests the Secretary-General to explore more systematically with the Executive Director of the Institute, as well as with the heads of United Nations programmes and funds, ways and modalities of cooperation, in order to define better the role of the Institute in the field of training, research and methodology, assessment and capacity-building within the United Nations system, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

"7. Requests the Executive Director of the Institute, through the Board of Trustees, to prepare and conduct a comprehensive survey of existing training programmes at the level of the United Nations system, as recommended by the Joint Inspection Unit in its report, and to submit a progress report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session."

11. At the 38th meeting, on 2 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Kheireddine Ramoul (Algeria), informed the Committee of the results of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.27, and drew the Committee's attention to a revised draft resolution (A/C.2/51/L.27/Rev.1), submitted by Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Japan, Mali, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal and Zaire.

12. At the same meeting, the representative of Cuba made a statement (see A/C.2/51/SR.38).

13. The representative of Poland, also on behalf of Argentina, amended operative paragraph 7 of the revised draft resolution by replacing the words "Also requests the Secretary-General to have the Joint Inspection Unit" by the words "Requests the Joint Inspection Unit".

14. Also at the 38th meeting, after statements by the representatives of Pakistan, Cameroon and the United States of America, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.27/Rev.1, as orally amended, without a vote (see para. 15, draft resolution II).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

15. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

United Nations University

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its previous resolutions on the United Nations University,

Having considered the report of the Council of the United Nations University[3] and the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the University,[4]

Expressing its deep appreciation for the voluntary contributions made to date by Governments and other public and private entities in support of the University,

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[3] A/51/31; to be issued in final form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 31.

[4] A/51/324.

Noting with appreciation the efforts made by the Rector of the United Nations University in intensifying his interaction with the United Nations Secretariat in the context of preparing for the third medium-term perspective,

Noting with appreciation also the efforts made by the Rector of the United Nations University in initiating a new series of research programmes,

1. Welcomes the completion of the second medium-term perspective 1990-1995, of the United Nations University and the ongoing work of formulating the third medium-term perspective for the period 1996-2001, being considered by the Council;

2. Takes note with appreciation of the steps taken by the Council and the Rector of the United Nations University to promote the work and the visibility of the University, particularly among Member States, the United Nations and its agencies, through such measures as organizing a series of public forums for the purpose of disseminating the results of its research, and requests them to further intensify such efforts;

3. Requests the Council and the Rector to continue intensifying their efforts to improve the University's interaction and communication with other bodies of the United Nations system, and to continue their efforts to avoid the duplication of work within the system;

4. Also requests the Council and the Rector to enhance further coordination and complementarity between the University's programmes and its research and training centres;

5. Requests the Secretary-General, in this connection, to continue his consideration of innovative measures to improve the interaction and communication between the University and other bodies of the United Nations system and to ensure the integration of the work of the University into all relevant activities of the system, taking into account General Assembly resolution 49/124 of 19 December 1994, so that the United Nations system may draw more extensively upon the work of the University, and to submit a report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-third session;

6. Welcomes the efforts of the Secretary-General to allow for the greater participation of the United Nations University in the work of the United Nations, and invites him to continue to encourage the participation, as appropriate, of the University in the activities of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and its subsidiary machinery, as well as through other existing structures and modalities for communication, interaction and integration;

7. Requests the Council and the Rector, taking into account General Assembly resolution 49/124, to continue to make further efforts to ensure the efficiency and economy of the activities of the University as well as its financial transparency and accountability, and to intensify efforts to augment its Endowment Fund and to find innovative ways to mobilize operating contributions and other programme and project support;

8. Invites the international community to make voluntary contributions to the United Nations University.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/227 of 8 April 1993, 48/207 of 21 December 1993, 49/125 of 19 December 1994 and 50/121 of 20 December 1995,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[5] the report of the Acting Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research on the activities of the Institute[6] and the report of the Joint Inspection Unit,[7]

Noting with interest the steps being taken to complete the restructuring process of the Institute and welcoming the recent progress made by the Institute in its various programmes and activities, including the improved cooperation that has been established with other organizations of the United Nations system and with regional and national institutions,

Expressing its appreciation to the Governments and private institutions that have made or pledged financial and other contributions to the Institute,

Welcoming the opening of the Institute's liaison office in New York following the recommendation of the Board of Trustees of the Institute and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly,

Reiterating that the funding of training programmes offered at the specific request of Member States or departments and units of the Organization and other organs of the United Nations system and the specialized agencies should be arranged by the requesting parties,

Recognizing that training activities should be accorded a more visible and larger role in support of the management of international affairs and in the execution of the economic and social development programmes of the United Nations system,

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[5] A/51/554.

[6] A/51/14; to be issued in final form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 14 (A/51/14/Rev.1).

[7] See A/51/642 and Add.1.

1. Reaffirms the relevance of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, particularly in view of the growing importance of training within the United Nations and the training requirements of all Member States, and the pertinence of research activities related to training undertaken by the Institute within its mandate;

2. Invites the Institute to strengthen its cooperation with other United Nations institutes and relevant national, regional and international institutes;

3. Requests that relevant measures be taken by the Board of Trustees of the Institute with respect to the regularization of the post of Executive Director of the Institute;

4. Renews its appeal to all Governments and to private institutions that have not yet contributed financially or otherwise to the Institute to give it their generous financial and other support, and urges the States that interrupted their voluntary contributions to consider resuming them in the light of the progress that has been made in the restructuring and revitalization of the Institute;

5. Takes note of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the relocation of the Institute,[7] and the subsequent decision of the Board of Trustees of the Institute to postpone any decision on the possibility of relocating the Institute;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to explore in consultation with the Executive Director of the Institute, as well as with the heads of United Nations programmes and funds, ways and modalities of cooperation, in order to better define the role of the Institute in the field of training, research and methodology, assessment and capacity-building within the United Nations system, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

7. Requests the Joint Inspection Unit, in close cooperation with the Institute and relevant United Nations bodies, to prepare a study, as recommended by the Unit in its report,[8] on the training institution programmes and activities of the United Nations system, and to submit a report thereon for consideration by the General Assembly at its fifty-second session.

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[8] A/51/642, para. 66.